

ATOMIC MOUSE
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ATOMIC MOUSE



Don D. Agostino

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ATOMIC MOUSE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 47

APRIL, 1962

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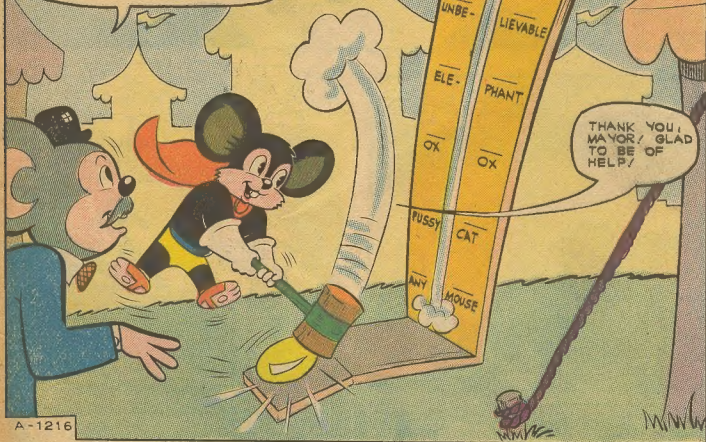
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Atomic Mouse

in A STRANGE BLEND

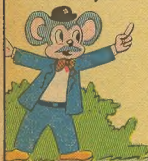
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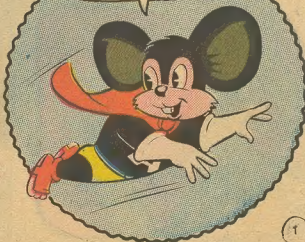
MICE ARE COMING INTO TOWN FOR MILES AROUND TO SEE YOU!

IF THEY'RE COMING TO SEE ME, I BETTER RUN A FEW ERRANDS AND GET RIGHT BACK!

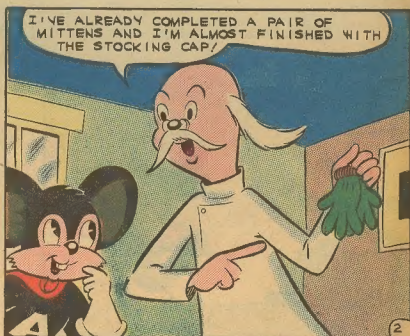
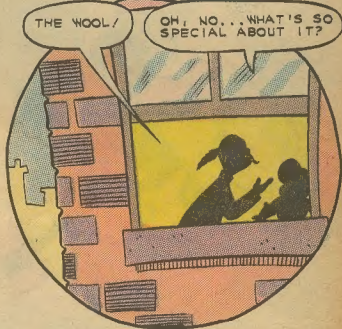
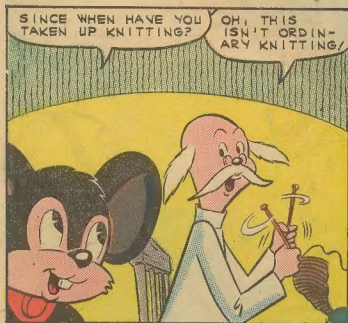
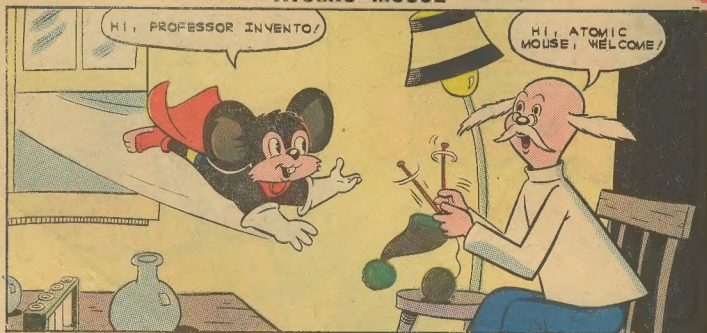


JOHN D'AGOSTINO

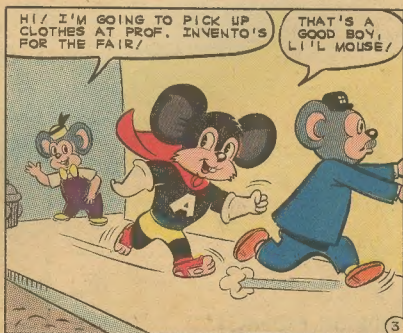
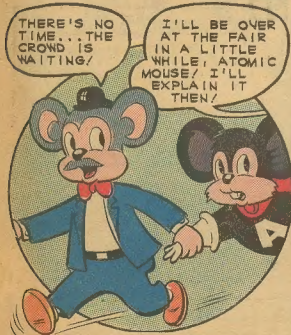
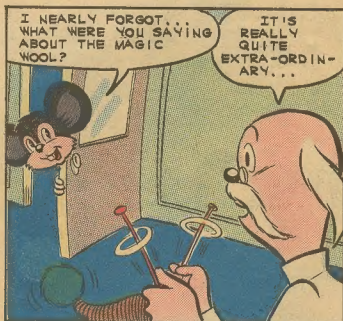
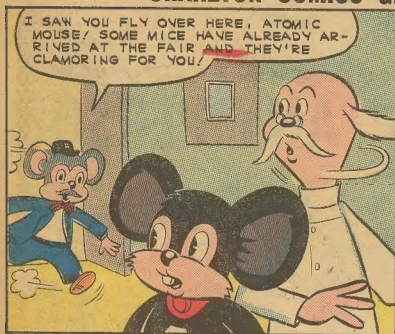
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ATOMIC MOUSE



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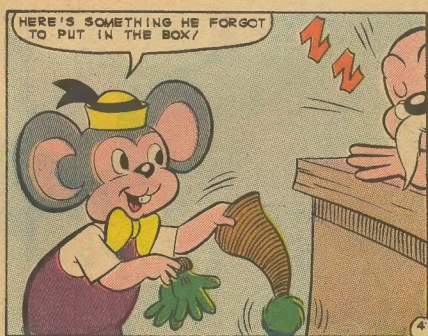
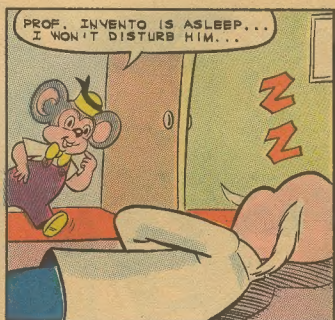
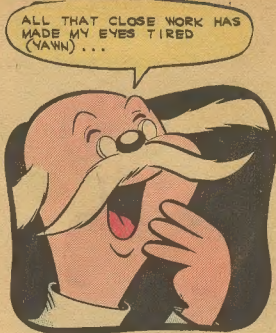
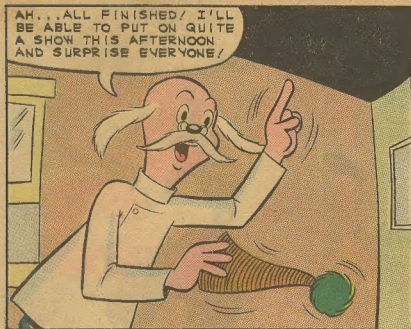
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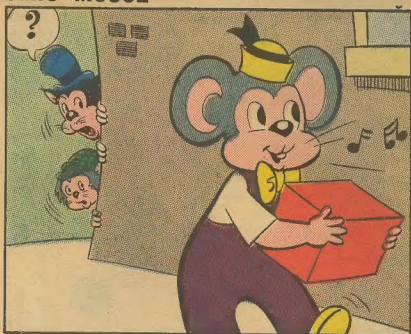
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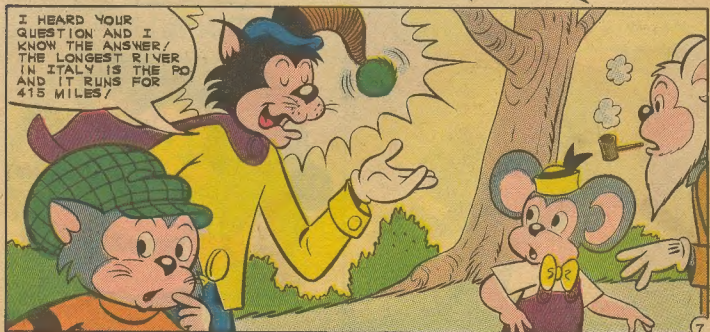
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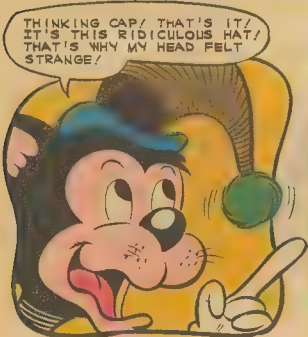
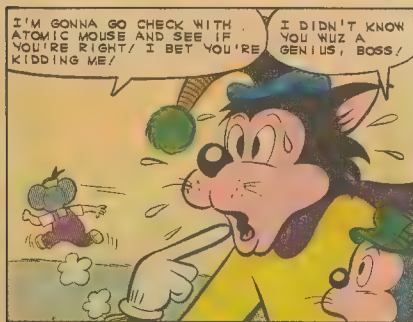
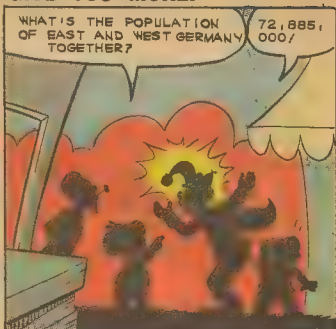
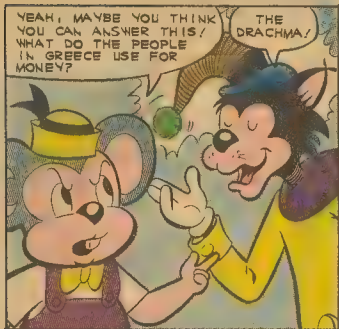
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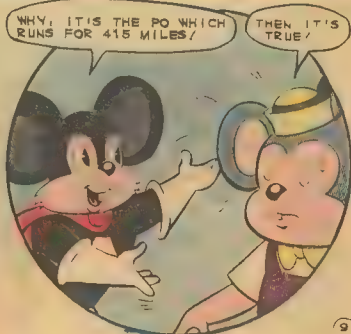
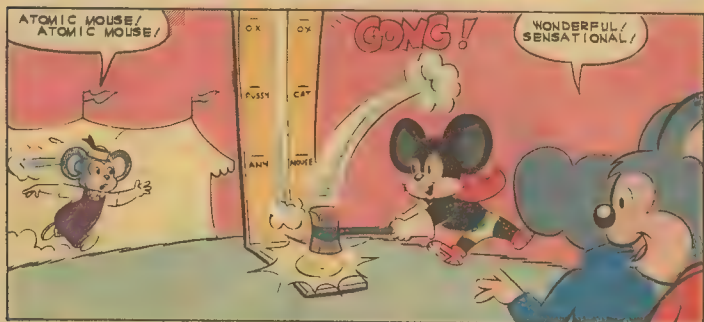
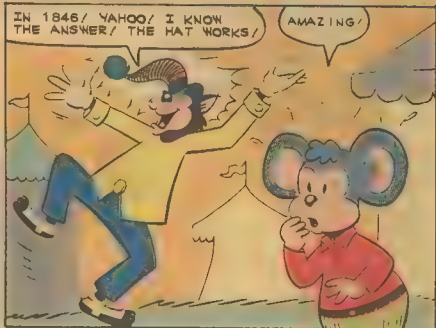
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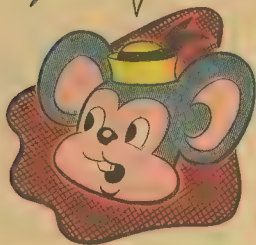
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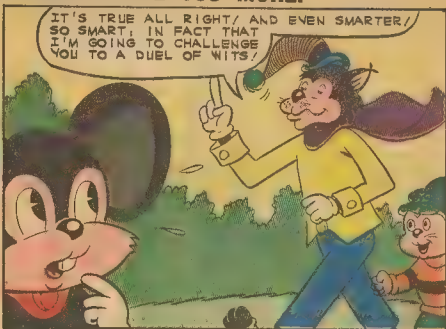
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WHAT'S TRUE?

THAT COUNT GATTO IS AS SMART AS YOU ARE!



IT'S TRUE ALL RIGHT! AND EVEN SMARTER! SO SMART, IN FACT THAT I'M GOING TO CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL OF WITS!



TAKE HIM UP ON IT, ATOMIC MOUSE! YOU'LL BEAT HIM IN A WALK!

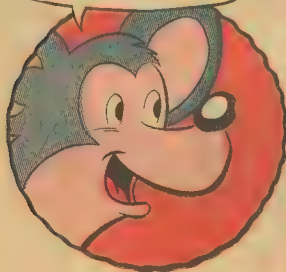


AND SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND OF ATOMIC MOUSE'S, YOU MAY BE THE ONE TO ASK US THE HARDEST QUESTIONS YOU KNOW!

FINE!

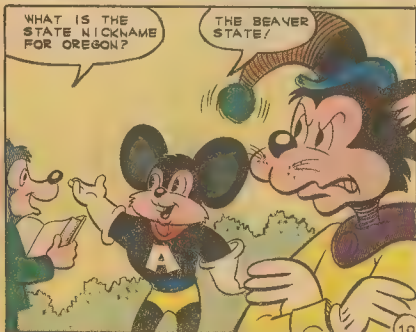


I'LL ASK YOU EACH ONE QUESTION, ATOMIC MOUSE WILL BE FIRST!



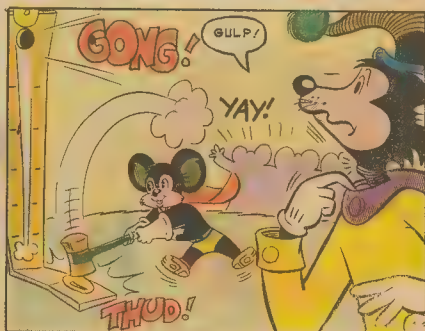
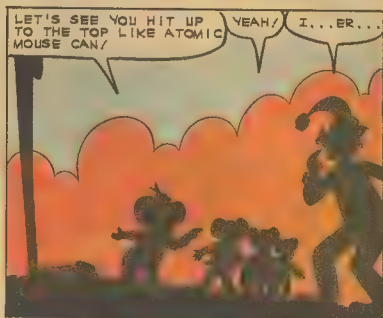
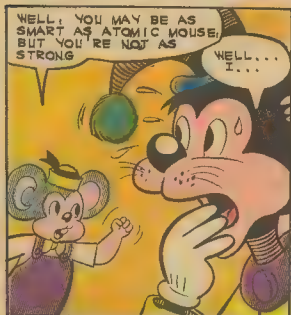
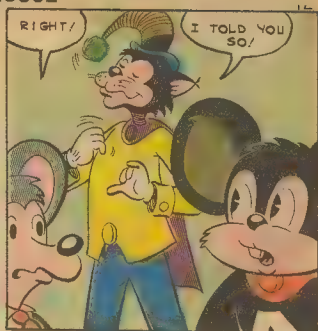
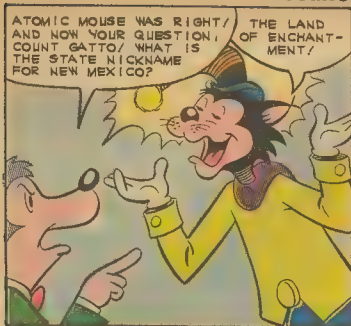
WHAT IS THE STATE NICKNAME FOR OREGON?

THE BEAVER STATE!



ATOMIC MOUSE

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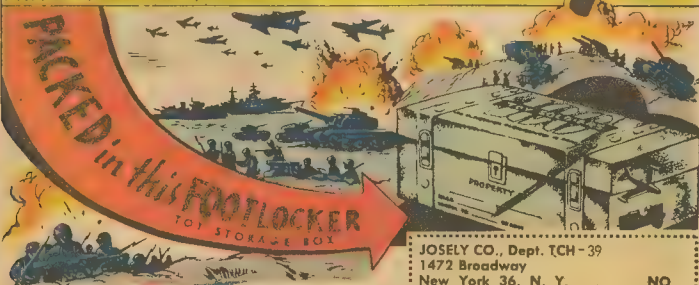
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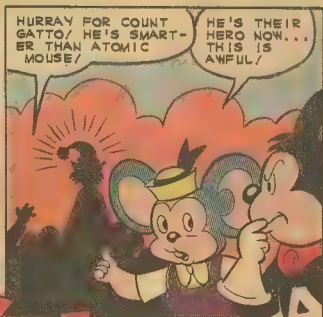
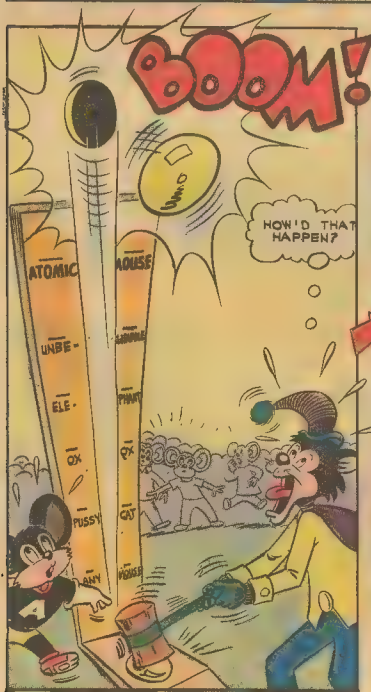
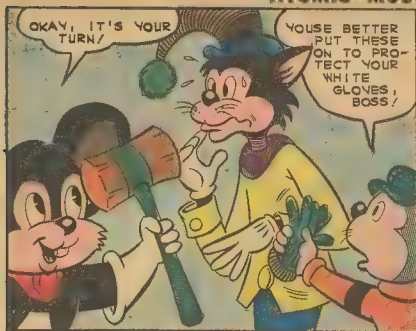
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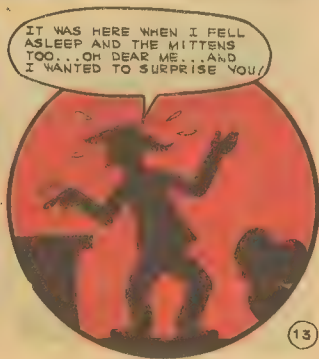
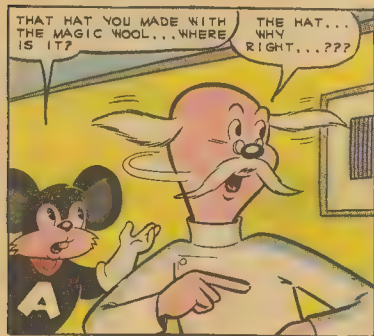
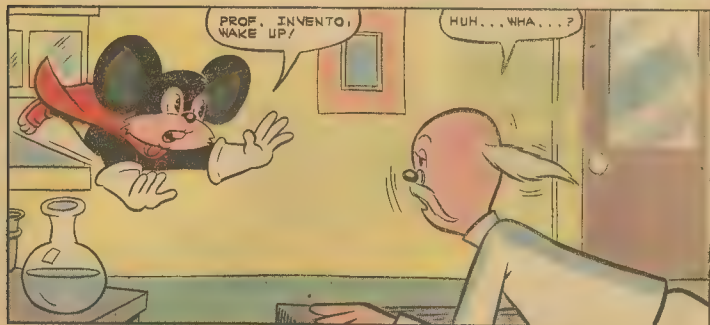
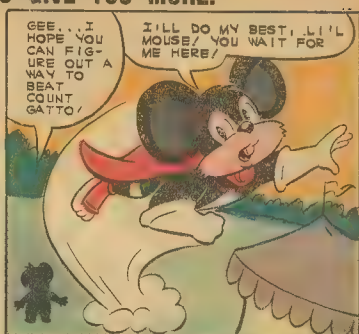
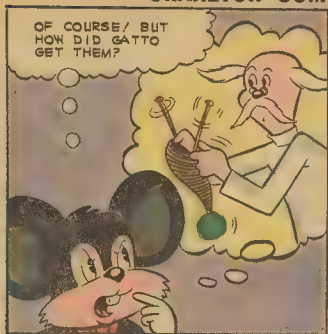
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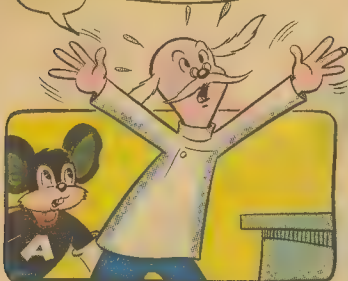


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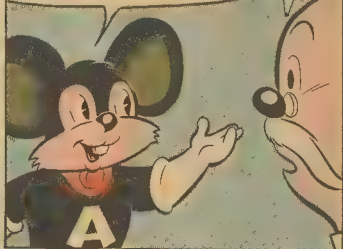
ATOMIC MOUSE

THE CLOTHES ARE GONE TOO!
HELP! THIEF! CALL ATOMIC
MOUSE!



STEADY, PROFESSOR! LIL' MOUSE
PICKED UP THE CLOTHES AL-
READY AND HE MUST HAVE
TAKEN THE HAT AND MITTENS
BY MISTAKE!

OH...

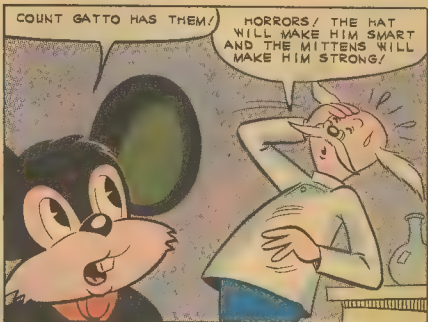


IF THEY SHOULD GET
INTO THE WRONG HANDS...

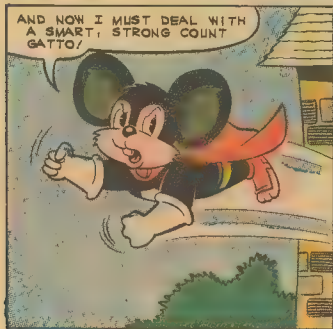


COUNT GATTO HAS THEM!

HORRORS! THE HAT
WILL MAKE HIM SMART
AND THE MITTENS WILL
MAKE HIM STRONG!



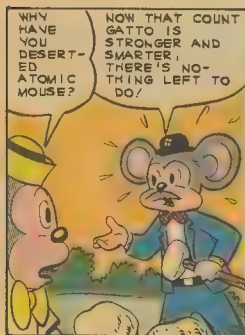
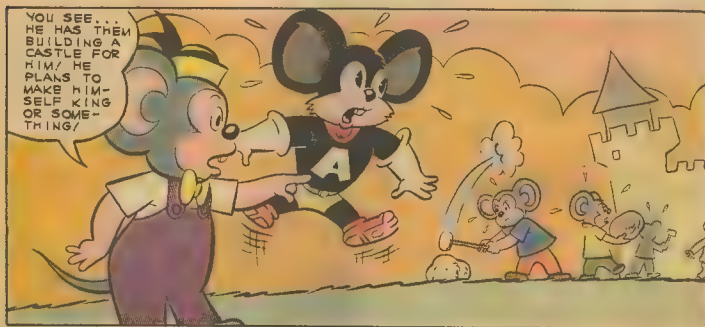
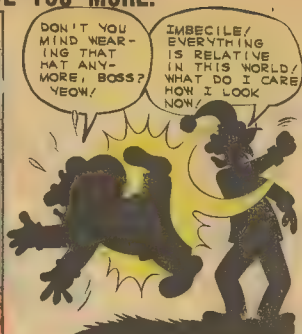
AND NOW I MUST DEAL WITH
A SMART, STRONG COUNT
GATTO!



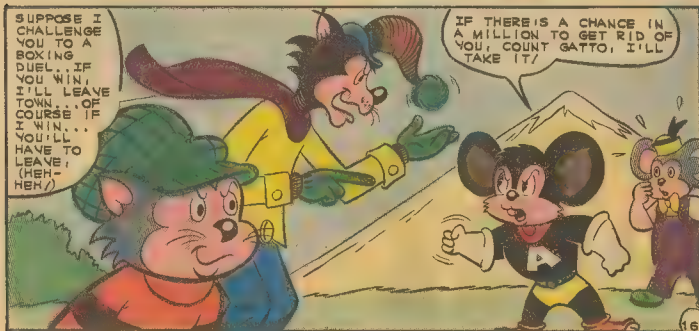
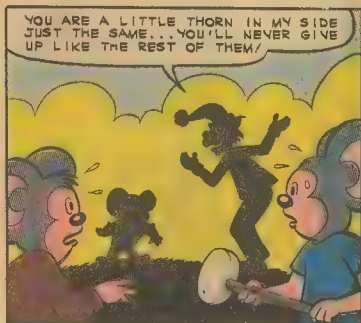
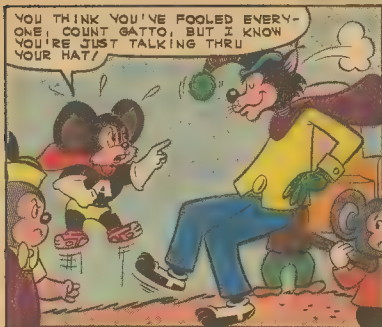
HA... WITH THIS POWER I WILL
RULE MOUSEVILLE! ALL THESE
FOOLS WILL BE SLAVES!!!



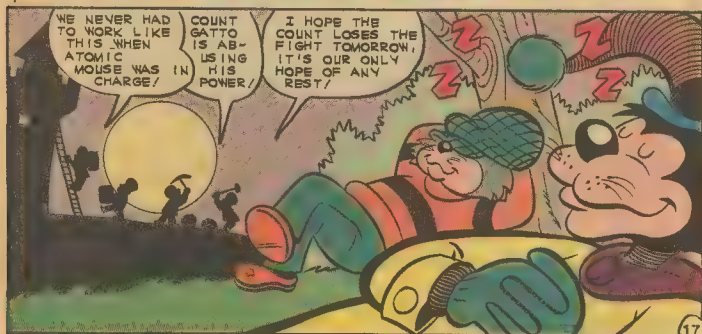
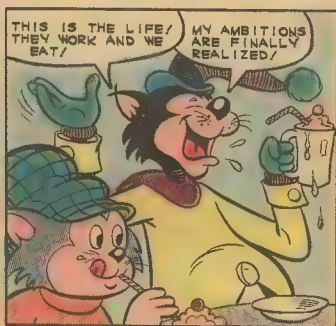
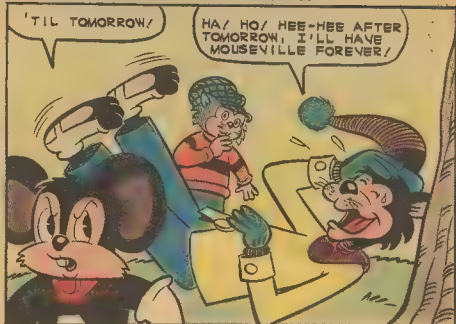
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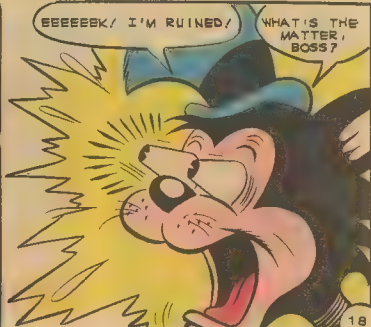
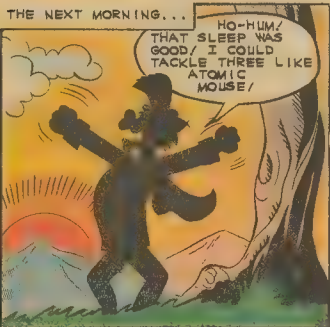
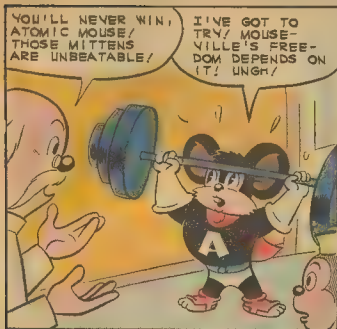
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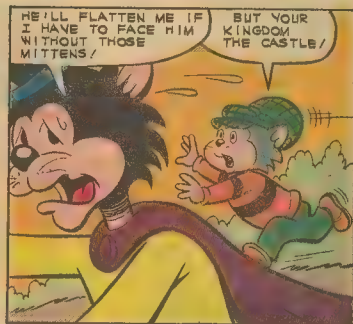
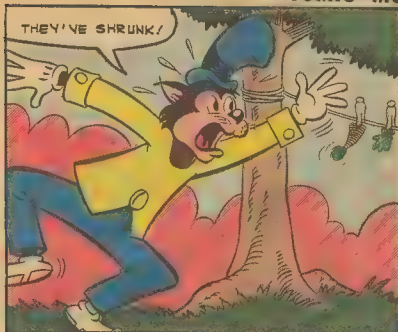
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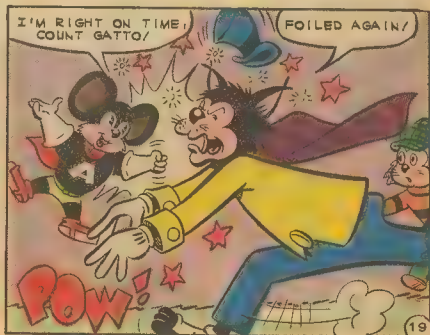
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ATOMIC MOUSE



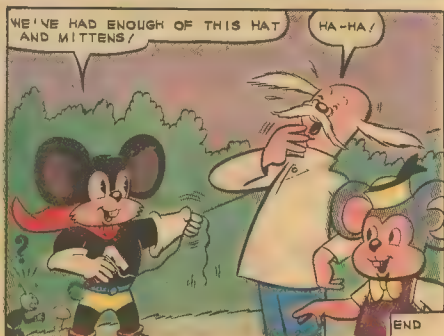
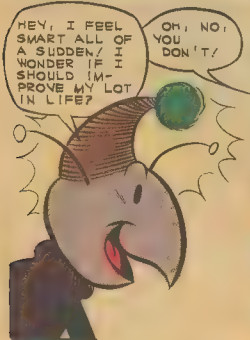
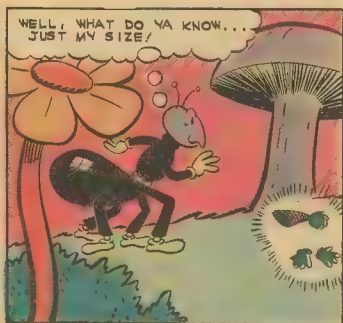
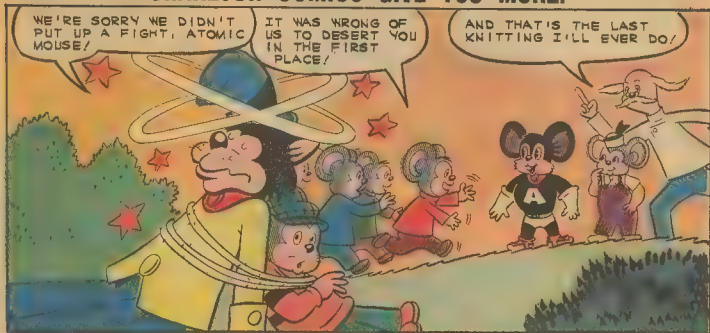
BUT YOUR KINGDOM THE CASTLE!



FOILED AGAIN!

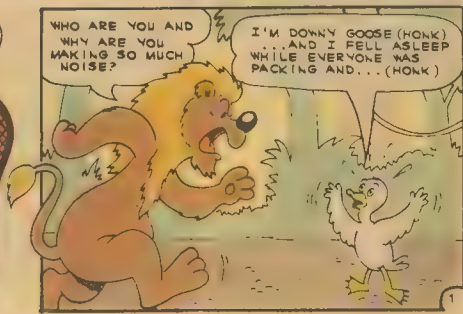
POW!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



END

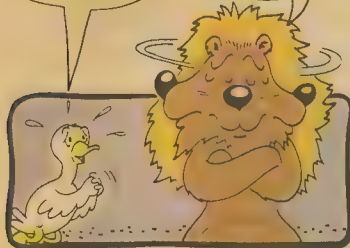
DOWNY, DOWN



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

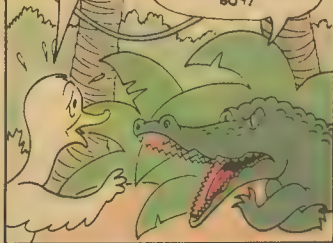
...AND (HONK)...
SAY...MAYBE I...
COULD STAY
WITH YOU?

ABSOLUTELY NOT/
YOU'RE A DOMESTIC
ANIMAL, NOT A
JUNGLE ONE!



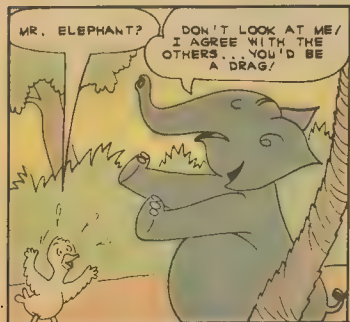
HOW ABOUT YOU,
MR. CROCODILE?
COULD I STAY
WITH YOU?

OH, DEAR ME!
NO! YOU DON'T
HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO SURVIVE
IN THESE PARTS,
BOY!



MR. ELEPHANT?

DON'T LOOK AT ME/
I AGREE WITH THE
OTHERS...YOU'D BE
A DRAG!



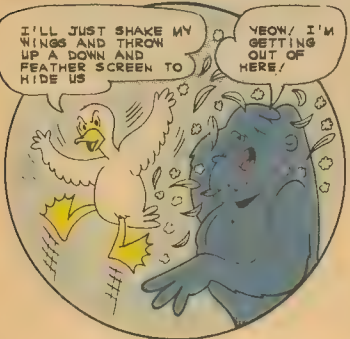
GRRR!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES/
IT'S TOOMBA!



I'LL JUST SHAKE MY
WINGS AND THROW
UP A DOWN AND
FEATHER SCREEN TO
HIDE US

YEOW! I'M
GETTING
OUT OF
HERE!



WHAT A TRICK! THAT
WAS GREAT...YOU
SAVED OUR
LIVES!

NOW CAN I
STAY WITH
YOU, FELLAS!

YOU'RE
DOWN
RIGHT,
DOWNY!



TANBARK SPEAKS

As most folks know I have a wonderful horse called Tanbark. I keep him in a private stall at the Cortland Riding Academy. Many people want to see this horse because they have been told that this animal can speak. This is true but the horse only speaks to me when no other human being is around. And when I am with my horse alone I can also understand the languages of all the little creatures in the park.

Once a reporter put a tape recorder next to the stall of my horse, hoping to record a conversation. But you can't fool Tanbark. I watched him very carefully. Saw his head lift up towards the left side of his stall. Then I started looking and found the hidden recorder. I started speaking in Chinese and kept on repeating: Bu How! Bu How! That is Mandarin for "Not Good." Believe me that reporter must have been surprised when he listened to the tape he had put on the machine.

On this particular Thursday afternoon I rode Tanbark up across the old viaduct. Years ago there was a track there but the rails have long since been removed. We rode our horses along this delightful path, then Tanbark made a turn to the right and took an old secret path he alone knew. I stopped in front of an Old Oak Tree and dismounted. Soon many of my horse's friends came to see him.

"Hello, Tanbark," greeted Squarro the Squirrel. He made three jumps down from the tree and landed on a small rock. "I was on top of the tree and saw you coming up this secret road. I have a warning for you. Don't eat any of the grass today. It was sprayed by the Park Department, to kill the insects that have been destroying the grass. The stuff they use isn't good for you. It will upset your stomach."

"Thank you for your kindness and consideration," replied Tanbark. "On a day like this

when I get my exercise I certainly develop a big appetite. But I will wait until I get back to the stable to eat."

"You don't have to do that," interrupted the friendly voice of Raro the Rabbit. "I have a present for you. A nice red ripe apple. I will toss it up into the air and catch the apple as it starts to fall down."

I watched the rabbit take the apple in his two front paws and throw it right up into the air. As it came down my horse just turned his head to the side and caught the apple the first time. He chewed it slowly.

"Must take my time eating," he apologized. "I understand that the experts say we all eat our food too quickly."

"That's correct," admitted Squarro the Squirrel. "One, two, three and the food is gone."

Suddenly Froggo the Frog jumped from behind a tree and landed on a small stone.

"Why must we always say One, Two, Three?" he demanded. "There are so many other numbers we can use. I feel they are getting jealous over One, Two, Three. Suppose the next time instead of saying One, Two, Three you just say Four, Five, Six."

"But if I say Four, Five, Six," snapped back the squirrel, "Then my friends will want to know what happened to One, Two, Three. Are they sick? Or are they angry with me? For years I have been very friendly with One, Two, Three. In fact I have their permission to always quote them. I would have to interview Four, Five, and Six. I think it best to continue the way I have been doing in the past. However I am very fair. I see no objection to you using Four, Five, and Six when you speak."

The frog was about to answer when Squeekie the Squirrel who was a seventh cousin to Squarro the Squirrel appeared. He was pushing a

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round small white ball.

"What is it?" asked Squeekie the Squirrel. "Something good to eat? Never saw an acorn or a nut like this before."

"That's a golf ball," explained the wiser older relative.

"The golf season opened on the public courts yesterday. The humans have a funny game. They take a lot of different sticks and hit golf balls all over the course. The idea is to hit the ball in less strokes than the other fellow does."

"Poor golf ball," sighed Squeekie the Squirrel. "What a life! To get punished for doing nothing at all."

"I'm not complaining," remarked the golf ball. "So why should you complain? I belong to Mr. Dickerson. He is looking for me right now. So kindly take me back to where you found me."

The startled squirrel then pushed the golf ball down the path to the side of the golf course.

"If I stay right here in this deep grass," pointed out the golf ball, "Then Mr. Dickerson will never find me. Just one more push to the side."

Squeekie the Squirrel followed this last suggestion and then returned to his friends. His ears never heard the conversation that took place on the golf course.

"Oh I did look here before very carefully," said Mr. Dickerson to a friend. "I just don't understand it at all. The golf ball couldn't have returned by its own power."

"Maybe you should have your eyes examined," suggested the golfing companion. "You may need a change of glasses. That golf ball was right here all the time."

The golf ball was about to tell the two men that Mr. Dickerson was correct. Then it remembered that humans would not understand at all. Meanwhile Totto the Turtle had come to join the group of friends.

"There is a five year old girl by the name of Janet Fuster," he told them. "She rides Champion. And there is a six year old boy by the name of Peter. He rides a western horse from another stable. The horse is called Thunder. I think that Peter should meet Janet."

"Why?" demanded Tanbark.

"Actually I want Champion to meet Thunder, and if they meet, then Peter and Janet meet. But the paths they take are different. The horses from one stable take the upper path, and the horses from the other stable take the lower path. Come on! I need ideas! How do we arrange this meeting?"

Polly the Pigeon had been flying overhead and listening to the conversation. Then she

flew right down and made her contribution.

"This secret path where we always meet connects the upper path to the lower path. I have a very simple suggestion to make. Tanbark will explain matters to Champion. Squarro the Squirrel will talk to Thunder. We have to time this exactly. I can fly overhead and give secret signals. Then the two riders will meet."

I listened most attentively as my little creatures and friends made all their plans. There was nothing for me as a human to say or to suggest. Then I mounted Tanbark and went back to the stable. Janet had just come in on her horse.

"Oh mother," she sighed. "I wish there was a little boy my age who also likes to ride horses. It would be so nice to have a friend."

"Perhaps I shall speak to Mrs. Winterly," said Janet's mother. "She has a boy your age."

"Not Jimmy," objected Janet. "The only horses he likes to ride are on a Merry-Go-Round."

The next day I returned for another ride in the park. There was a very peculiar smile on Tanbark's face. He had nothing to say until we went riding. I wanted him to take the secret path but he tossed his head up towards the sky. There I saw Polly the Pigeon flying and giving secret signals. In back of me was Champion with Janet. I galloped out of sight. But an hour later when I returned to the stable there were two children on horses.

Mother, mother," shouted Janet with joy and glee in her youthful voice. "I met Peter. Here he is. And his horse likes my horse. Isn't that wonderful?"

So Peter and Janet had ice cream together. And Thunder and Champion rubbed noses. I quickly rode back to the secret path. My little friends were awaiting the results. Just then Polly the Pigeon flew down to tell them the news.

"Everything worked out fine," she beamed. "Maybe we could all go into a new kind of business. To help human of all ages meet other humans."

"But Champion met Thunder and that is really very important," added Squarro the Squirrel. "I talked to Thunder and explained matters."

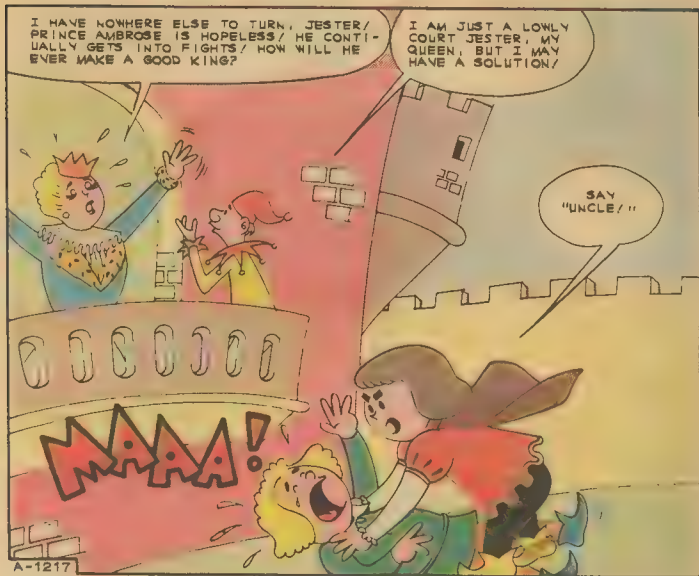
"And I talked to Champion," added Tanbark and explained the situation.

"How about me?" I suddenly said. "There is a very charming girl who rides a white horse. Think you could arrange things so we meet?"

There was a dead silence and I felt embarrassed when suddenly Tanbark spoke.

"She rides Pride. I don't like Pride. Either you decide upon a different girl or she gets a different horse."

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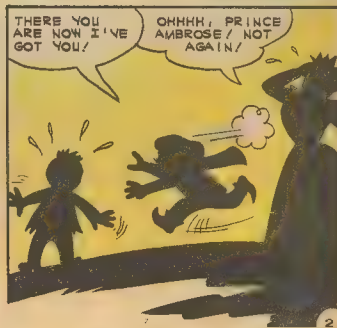
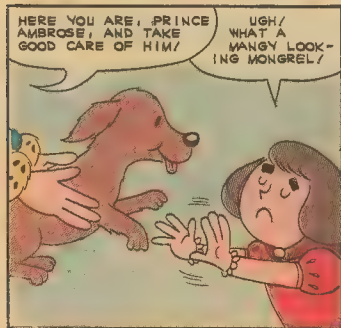
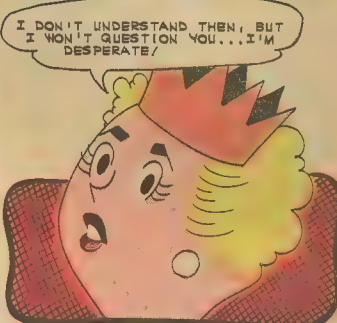
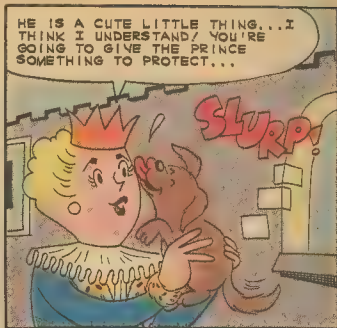
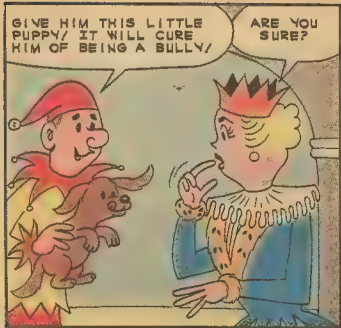
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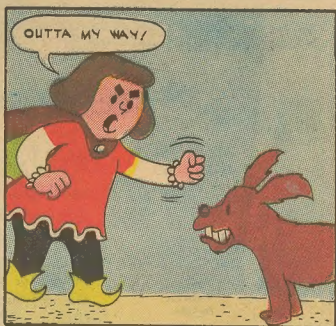
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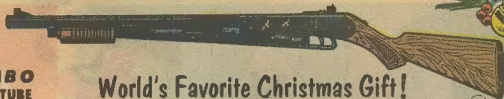
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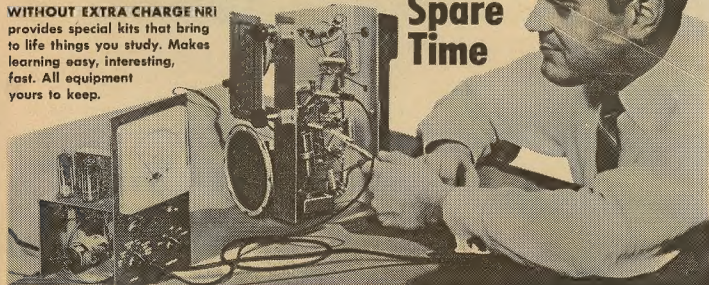
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